



# The Fortarian

April 24th 2024

Rotary Club of Thunder Bay (Fort William)

## 2022/2023 Board of Directors

President: Irene Sottile  
 Secretary: Stephen Margarit  
 Assistant Secretary: Cindy Levanto  
 Treasurer: Dawn Sebasta  
 President Elect: Glenn Craig  
 Past President: Fhara Pottinger  
 Meets: 3rd Tuesday of each month,  
 Zoom: 6.30pm

## Website [www.fwrotary.ca](http://www.fwrotary.ca)

Directors:  
 Therese Lim  
 Cindy Levanto  
 Joseph Osei Ababio  
 Dave Knutson  
 Stephen Margarit  
 Mary Ann Breton

## Allocations Committee

Chair: Bob Hookham  
 Meets: 2nd Tuesday of each month,  
 Zoom 12 noon.

## Rotary House Lottery Committee

Chair: Dave Knutson  
 Meets: 1st Tuesday of each month,  
 Zoom 12 noon.

## Semi-monthly Zoom Meetings

Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.  
 Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday

## Mailing Address

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 Thunder Bay, ON  
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## Newsletter Editors

Erle Wheatley & Brian Phillips

## **THE FORTARIAN**

### **April 24, 2024**

President Irene Sottile welcomed everyone to the meeting. Visiting Honorary Rotarians were Dian Silen and Mark Breton. Laura Craig led the singing of the National Anthem. Cynthia Judge gave the Toast to the King and President Irene read the Land Acknowledgment.

The speakers for the evening were Mohammed Elshafey, his wife Selma, and Dr. Yasser Labib. President Irene introduced the speakers. Mohammed Elshafey received a degree in biomedical engineering from Cairo University in Egypt. He received his Masters degree from Lakehead University. He is an Islamic schoolteacher at Al Khayr Academy, the first Muslim school in the city. Dr. Yasser Labib is an anesthesiologist with the Thunder Bay Regional Hospital.

Mohammed began his presentation by reciting some verses from the Koran. He explained that these particular verses held much meaning for him.

Mohammed's father is a physician. He encouraged Mohammed towards a career in medicine. Mohammed enjoyed biology, mathematics, and physics in school so he decided to go into biomedical engineering. Islam says that people are here on earth to help everyone. Mohammed enjoyed applying biotechnology to help people. He also likes to teach in order to spread knowledge that he has learned to everyone.

In his desire to learn about other cultures, Mohammed decided to finish university outside of Egypt. He received an offer from Lakehead University that he accepted. Thunder Bay has been a good city for him to live in order to learn about Canadian culture.

Muslims live their lives according to a larger perspective. They believe that people should spend their lives trying to find their purpose for existence and then working to achieve that purpose. People are born to provide added value to life. They are here to be tested and

the test is unique to each of us. The questions to be asked are: “What will be your actions here on earth?” and “What are the borders and tools of the test?” Muslims rely on the Koran as their guidebook for life.

Muslims believe in one God. They obey Him and follow his Word. They do not rely on an intermediary in their relationship with Allah. There is no hierarchy or rituals in their religion. The knowledge of God is freely given to everyone. The role of the imam is to organize the prayers and to lead them.

The word Islam means submission to the Word and only the Word. There are five pillars of Islam: the declaration of faith, prayer, almsgiving, fasting, and pilgrimage. A lively question period followed the presentation. President Irene thanked the speakers for their presentations.

The Fine Master for the evening was Glenn Craig.

Cindy Levanto gave the House Lottery report. Tickets are now seventy-five percent sold. The first Open House will take place on Saturday, April 28, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Rotarians will have a sneak peek at the House at noon of that day. Cindy thanked Toren and the Hospital Foundation for all of the excellent work that they have done in assisting the Club to sell tickets.

Stephen Margarit gave the Allocations Committee Report. The applications for 2024 will be going out on May 1. Stephen and Dan Brown from the Nipigon Club were the only two Rotarians to attend the District Conference from our area. On behalf of the District, Stephen presented the two District Awards that our Club won to President Irene. In the category for clubs of 31-60 members, Fort William Rotary came first in Community Service and in Fundraising.

The District Conference for 2025 will be in Bemidji, Minnesota and in Duluth, Minnesota for 2026.

Cindy Levanto ended the evening with Lighter Side

## Announcements

June 1: Volunteers are required for the Waterfront Trail Cleanup, taking place at Marina Park from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. President Irene will be passing around a sign-up sheet for this volunteer opportunity at the May 8 meeting

**Editor Brian**

**Scribe Bev**

**Photos none**

## ***Theme 2023-2024***

